Remarks

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The claims under consideration are Claims 28-36.

Claims 28-31 and 33-35 have been allowed, and Claims 32 and 36 have been rejected.

The applicant has cancelled Claims 32 and 36 as to place the application in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Agent for Applicant

Reg. No. 50,499

Novartis Corporate Intellectual Property One Health Plaza, Building 430 East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080 (862) 778-7875

Date: April 28, 2004

Encl.: Petition for a two month extension of time